



Montana

**Department of Labor and Industry**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HOLIDAY SEASON, STRONG ECONOMY DRIVE EMPLOYMENT GAINS**

HELENA, Mont. --- Seasonally-adjusted employment increased by 3,100 jobs from October to November. Though not unexpected, due to the onset of the holiday season, these gains signal the continued strength of the Montana economy. The adjusted unemployment rate remained at 4.3%, which, last month was found to be the lowest point reached in 30 years. \*

“The economy has remained strong as we entered the winter months,” said Department of Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. “Seasonally mild weather in early November enabled continuation of work in the construction and mining industries. However, as the temperature continues to drop, Montana will experience the predictable seasonal increase in our unemployment.”

Montana’s unadjusted employment figures rose by 7,600 jobs from the previous year. This equated to an increase of 1.8%, continuing similar over-the-year gains seen in previous months. An examination of individual industries showed employment increases for most sectors.

Leisure and Hospitality and Education and Health Services saw the largest increases over the previous year, with 1,600 jobs. Construction gained 1,500 positions,

while Business Services increased by 1,300, and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 1,200 additional jobs. Natural Resources and Mining increased by 300 and Financial Activities by 200. Information and Government each gained 100 positions, while Manufacturing remained unchanged. Other Services showed the only decline, with a reduction of 300 positions.

#### QUOTE

Additional information related to this employment situation press release can be found by visiting the Research and Analysis website at [www.ourfactsyourfuture.org](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org)

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*\* Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level.*

#### \*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\*

**County unemployment rates are available in our monthly economic bulletin, *Montana Economy at a Glance*, and on our website.**

**Employment information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs is available on the Department of Labor and Industry web page at:**  
[dli.state.mt.us/resources/articles.asp](http://dli.state.mt.us/resources/articles.asp)

**The December 2005 Labor Situation Report will be released Tuesday, January 24, 2006.**